

# UPSHUR COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO. 1

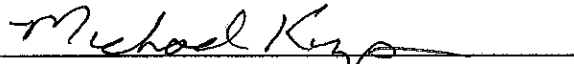
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

4:30 P.M.

## MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the Upshur County Emergency Services District No. 1 Board of Directors was held on September 13, 2021, at the Gilmer Fire Station, 120 Henderson, Gilmer, Texas.

- 1) **Open meeting.** The meeting was opened at 4:30 p.m. by Michael Kuza.
- 2) **Call to order.** Michael Kuza called the meeting to order.
- 3) **Determine quorum present.** Michael Kuza determined a quorum was present with Michael Kuza, Gary Smith, David Tackett and Cloddie Henson being present.
- 4) **BUDGET WORKSHOP.** Big Sandy Fire Chief Jeff Jones presented a letter to the Board requesting an increase in funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget. A copy of the letter is attached hereto.
- 5) **Adjournment.** Motion by David Tackett and second by Cloddie Henson to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. Unanimous vote in favor.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer Signature  
Title: Secretary

Date: 10-11-21



August 10, 2021

ESD Board Members,

The Big Sandy Volunteer Fire Department respectfully submits this letter for your consideration in the following budget workshops for 2021-2022 fiscal year. BSVFD currently receives \$30,000 per year to provide fire protection into areas of Upshur County. While there has been tightening of the budget, we would request that you continue our contract at current levels and consider increasing this amount in this budget year or years to come. As we understand it, we currently receive the least payment of any department in the ESD, whether contract or ESD dept. We believe we have a solid track record over the last several years of providing significant service to the county in terms of manpower, engines, and water supply capability and seek to continue to add to this capability. We seek to bring the very best service we can provide to both our city and the county, and believe that we put additional funds to good use.

In the year of 2020, we responded to 45 in Upshur County outside of city limits. Of these calls 4 were structure fires, 5 were vehicle fires, and also included extrication calls and a number of mutual aid calls. Oftentimes we have been able to send multiple engines with manpower to even the mutual aid fires.

We are still paying off our 2018 "Engine 1" pumper/tanker, built with 2250 gallons of water to have significant capacity both as an engine and as a mobile water supply apparatus. We currently still owe \$29,447 on that apparatus and are working on paying that down. We are currently pursuing options to put an additional mobile water supply apparatus in service, specifically for use in the county. This budget year we are also looking at purchasing an additional set of extrication equipment (\$20,000 plus) in service to be able better respond to and handle MVC's, many of which are in the county areas. An additional project being pursued is building a cache or rope rescue equipment (approximately \$3000) to provide the tools needed for more water rescue, slope rescue, confined space rescue and other specialty calls. BSVFD already has significant depth of experienced personnel and instructors in rope rescue and special operations disciplines and wants to be able to provide those services to the surrounding area.

We understand that money is limited now more than ever and you have many priorities on where to invest the tax-payers money. We continue to strive to be the best possible investment of fire protection dollars that we can be and appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief Jeff Jones

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Assistant Chief Stephen Winchell